

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,263,322 (Kirkevold).

According to Kirkevold, it is directed to a repair shop network that allegedly enhances the efficiency and quality of diagnostic and repair work performed in an automotive repair shop. Kirkevold discloses that a shop management computer is linked, via the Internet or other direct data connection, to remote components (not shown) such as vendor databases located offsite.

The present invention, as defined by independent claim 1, for example, includes "an owner information database storing identifiers of customers owning the stored products." Applicants submit that the target product in Kirkevold is a vehicle (vehicle name). In column 4, lines 55-66, Kirkevold describes a remote component such as a vendor database located offsite. Kirkevold does not disclose or suggest a database in which a product (e.g., vehicle name) including repair components is included. The database in Kirkevold merely includes identifying information for vendors. Therefore, Kirkevold does not teach or suggest, "an owner information database storing identifiers of customers owning the stored products," as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 9, and 11 of the present invention. As claims 2-3 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over Kirkevold for at least the reasons presented above for the independent claims. Moreover, Applicants submit that Kirkevold fails to teach or suggest, "selecting at least one customer owning at least one product comprising the repair component," as recited in independent claim 1, for example, of the present invention.

In addition, the present invention, as defined by independent claim 1, for example, includes a repair request information receiving part receiving repair request information including a desired repair fee. The information is then transmitted to at least one component providing candidate. When the component providing candidate receives the information, including the desired purchase reference price (the desired repair fee minus the repair labor costs, etc.), the component providing candidate determines whether it is possible to provide a component at a price equal to or lower than the desired purchase reference price. If so, the component providing candidate inputs a desired selling price of the repair component and transmits the information to the repair requester. As a result, the repair requester is provided with specific pricing information according to the repair requester's desired price. See Specification of the Present Invention, page 14, line 28 – page 15, line 3.

The above-identified feature of the present invention is recited in claim 1, for example, by the language, "a repair request information receiving part receiving repair request information comprising . . . a desired repair fee," "a purchase component information notifying part notifying the selected component providing candidate of purchase component information including the reference purchase price of the component desired to be purchased," and "a repair information sending part sending repair information comprising the repair fee to the repair requester terminal."

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 7, 9, and 11, (claims 7, 9, and 11 recite language similar to that of claim 1) is not obvious over Kirkevold, as Kirkevold does not teach or suggest the above-quoted feature of claim 1 of the present invention, for example. Kirkevold merely discloses that a service order is entered. The Examiner seems to suggest that Kirkevold does not disclose entering a desired price, as in the present invention. See Office Action, at page 3.

According to the Examiner, however, paragraph 5, line 6 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0065734 (Kuo) supports his assertion that it is well known to allow a buyer to, "request any price and allow the seller to either match or dismiss said price." In relevant part, Kuo states, "However, for agent business platforms, the buying party generally must spend a lot of time selecting a supplier, or to bargain with the supplier over the price." Applicants respectfully submit that Kuo does not teach or suggest a repair order receiving and sending system operated on a repairer server that includes the above-identified parts. Kuo merely abstractly states that buyers spend time bargaining with a supplier over price.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 7, 9, and 11 are also patentable over Kirkevold for the reasons presented above. As claims 2-3 depend from independent claim 1, claims 2-3 are patentable over the reference for at least the reasons presented above.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

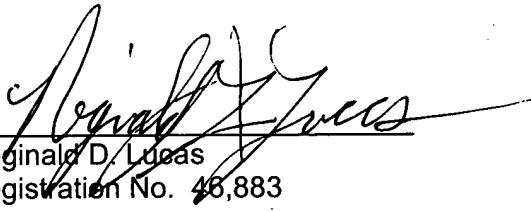
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 27 July 05

By: 
Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501